

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

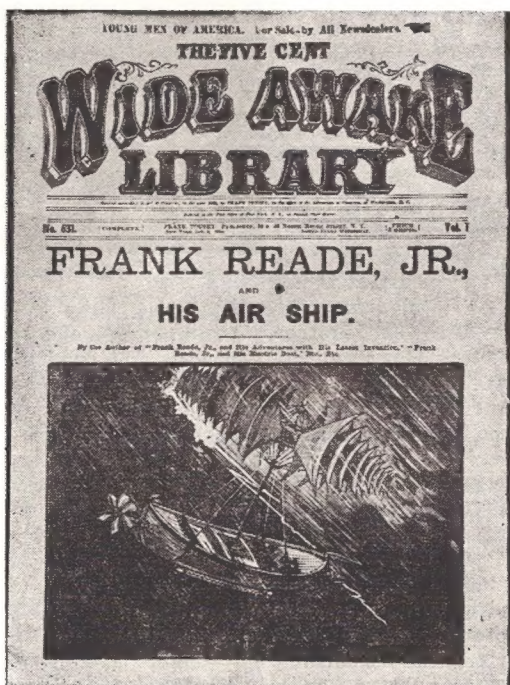


A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 31, No. 11

November 15, 1963

Whole No. 374



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 50

WIDE AWAKE LIBRARY

September 7, 1878 to January 7, 1893, 1353 issues. Black and White pictorial covers. Many were profusely illustrated with inside woodcuts. Published by Frank Tousey. Schedule of issue varied from tri-weekly to weekly to bi-weekly. Contained the first complete edition of most Frank Reade stories. Also featured comic stories from Boys of New York, Young Men of America and other Frank Tousey story papers. (A complete listing of stories is in preparation to be issued as Bibliographic Listing No. 12).

LOUIS B. PENDLETON: A FAMOUS SOUTHERN AUTHOR

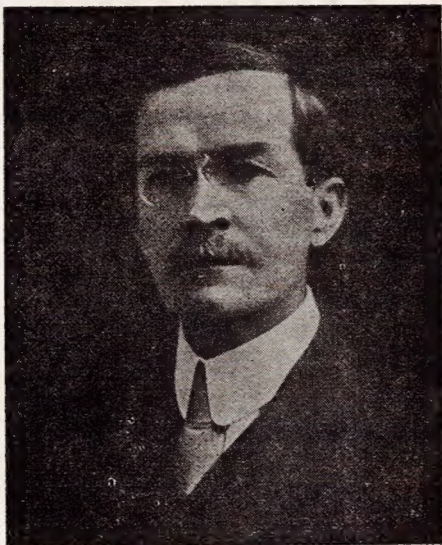
By Roy B. Van Devier

Louis Beauregard Pendleton, author and editor, was born at Tebeauville (now Waycross), Ware County, Ga., April 21, 1861, son of Philip Coleman and Catharine (Tebeau) Pendleton. The family descends from Philip Pendleton, a native of Norwich, England, who emigrated to Virginia in 1676. The line of descent is traced from him through his son, Henry Pendleton; through his son, James Pendleton; through his son, Philip Pendleton, a Captain in the Revolutionary war, and through his son, Coleman Pendleton, grandfather of the author, who early settled in Georgia and was married to the daughter of Captain Benjamin Gilbert, also an officer in the Revolutionary army.

Louis was educated partly at home and partly in an academy at Valdosta, Georgia. At the age of nineteen he became a printer and assistant of the Valdosta "Times," a local weekly paper published by his elder brother, Charles R. Pendleton. He began his literary career by contributing stories to a weekly paper published in Atlanta, and from the beginning achieved a popular success.

In 1882 he accepted employment with Bradstreet's Commercial Agency in Chicago, but resigning before the close of a year, to resume study in the College of the New Jerusalem Church in Philadelphia. After two years here he entered the employ of a Philadelphia medical publishing house and during seven years spent with them, studied modern languages, read widely and wrote extensively for periodicals.

From 1899 to 1914 he was a contributing editorial writer for the Macon



Louis B. Pendleton

(Georgia) Daily Telegraph and later was in charge of a syndicated editorial service.

The success of Louis Pendleton's juvenile tales and stories of Southern life encouraged him, in 1888, to publish a volume entitled "Bewitched and Other Stories," which brought him flattering letters from Mark Twain, Bret Harte and other noted writers.

His subsequent books are: "In the Wire-Grass" 1889; "King Tom and the Runaways" 1890; "The Wedding Garment" 1894, (translated into Swedish, German, French and Portuguese); "The Sons of Ham" 1895; "In the Okefinokee" 1895, (a Story of War Time and the Great Georgia Swamp); "Corona of the Nantahalas" 1895; "Carita, a Cuban Romance" 1898; "Lost Prince Aumon" 1898; "In the Camp of the

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP, Vol. 31, No. 11, Whole No. 374, November 15, 1963 Published monthly at 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kansas. Edited by Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass. Second class postage paid at Lawrence, Kansas. Assistant Editor, Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., South Grafton, Mass. Subscription \$3.00 per year. Ad Rates—9c per word, \$1.50 per column inch; \$3.25 per quarter page, \$4.50 per half page and \$7.50 per page. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

Creeks" 1903; "A Forest Drama" 1904; "In Assyrian Tents" 1904; "Captain Ted" 1918; "Kidnapping Clarence" 1922; "The Princess Lilitu" 1924; "The Invisible Police" 1932; "Grapes of Wrath" 1937 and "Echo of Drums" (a Story of Georgia during the reconstruction) 1938. His best known books are "The Life of Alexander H. Stephens," a biography published in 1908; "King Tom and the Runaways"; "In the Okefenokee" and "In the Camp of the Creeks," a story of the Creek War in Georgia in 1836. In this fine book, Louis Pendleton describes the great battle of Chickasawhatchee which was fought on the 3rd day of July 1836.

He was a member of the Authors League of America, and Virginia Historical Society, Franklin Inn Club of Philadelphia, and an honorary member of Societe Academique d'Histoire Internationale.

Louis Pendleton died of a heart ailment at his home in Bryn Athyn, Montgomery Co., Pennsylvania, on May 13, 1939. He was unmarried. He was survived by several nieces and nephews.

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

William Myles Burns, age 71, died late Friday night October 25, 1963, at a local nursing home in Rockland, Maine. Bill had been ill for a long time which had been aggravated by a bad fall last summer. Bill was born in Washington, Maine, November 30,

1891, the son of Eugene and Etta Burns Blackington. Later he was adopted by his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Belson Burns. He attended school at Washington and in Union, Maine. Before his illness he was employed by the A. C. McLoon Co. as a cooper. He also worked on a freight boat between Rockland and some of the islands off the Maine coast. He was a charter member of the Happy Hours Brotherhood which began back in 1925. Bill Burns is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Emery Ellis and Mrs. Kendall Jones of Rockland, three grand children and one great grandchild and three brothers, Ernest Blackington of Groton, Conn., Leland Blackington of Windsor, Vt., and Monte Blackington of Northboro, Mass., a sister, Mrs. Josephine Wright and four half sisters. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28. Due to inclement weather caused by hurricane "Ginny" interment was delayed to the next day. Rev. Cleaves Henderson of the Littlefield Baptist Church officiated.

All you members have read many articles written by our lost brother and you've all enjoyed them I'm sure. Bill was a great lover of dime novels being a great reader and trader. He was also interested in the English penny dreadfuls having collected them in his later years. Ye writer, Ralph Cummings, and Ken Daggett attended the funeral. Bill was sure a great friend, I visited him often and I will miss him dearly.

The following are all original books with colored covers except 11 in the lot with no covers. The lot have spine breaks, not bad. Make offer for all or any separate titles:

Wild West Weekly 1 58 77 104 135 136 138 535 537 674 683 760 822 839 904
905 906 908 911 913 916 917 918 919 921 922 923 925 926 927 928 929 931
936 937 940 942 (37 copies).

Secret Service #99 116 129 134 154 163 207 256 463 400 (10 copies).

Pluck and Luck #198 298 346 416 569 600 614 655 689 717 733 796 877 954
999 1095 1105 1130 1213 1222 1226 1231 1279 1288 1369 1402 1403 1407
1408 1413 1419 1420 1428 1507 1516 1532 1551 (37 copies).

Fame and Fortune #304 315 371 502 747 755 (6 copies). Total 90 issues.

Blox Barn, Derry, N. H.

CAPTAIN JACK: THE RELENTLESS FOE OF THE DIME NOVEL

By Paul T. Nolan

University of Southwestern Louisiana

The dime novel in the nineteenth century certainly had its opponents, ranging all the way from high government and church officials to Ma with a switch; but it probably had no stronger foe than "Capt. Jack" (John Wallace) Crawford, "The Poet Scout."

Crawford for over forty years was a popular "public personality." Born in Ireland in 1847, he came to the United States around 1860, worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania until he was almost sixteen, when he ran away from home and joined the 48th Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was wounded twice in action in the Civil war, and while recovering from his wounds, he was taught to read and write by a Sister of Charity.

When the war was over, Crawford had two itches—to see more action and to be a writer. He went West about 1870, became a hunter and scout; and in 1876, he was appointed chief of U. S. Scouts in the Dakotas when Buffalo Bill resigned to return to show business. Before that year was over, however, Cody offered Captain Jack a "starring role" in "Life on the Border," one of the plays with which he was touring; and Crawford accepted. Crawford's year with Buffalo Bill was a very unsatisfactory one for the Poet Scout, but he liked show business. When the two scouts parted company in Virginia City, Nevada, in the summer of 1877, Crawford tried to get a troupe of his own together to take his play, "Fonda; or The Trapper's Daughter," to Australia. When he was unable to raise the capital, he took an offer from General Hatch to be a government scout in the New Mexico-Arizona Territory.

Crawford stayed in the southwest territory for the next twenty years, but during this time, he took many leaves to travel about the country, reciting his poetry, singing songs, giving readings and performances of his

plays, and lecturing against the evils of liquor, cigarettes, and the dime novel. One of his lectures, "How I Met Billy the Kid," has Billy tell Capt. Jack this story of his downfall "Captain Jack," said Billy, "I'm awful, awful bad, but if I'd a know'd you five years ago I'd never been an outlaw . . . I want you to do me a favor. When I'm gone tell the boys . . . Tell 'em cigarettes was my starter, then hard cider, then a little wine given to me by a girl and then bad books (dime novels) and then whiskey. Tell the boys and tell 'em I asked you to afore they killed me."

In his last play, "Colonel Bob" (1908), Crawford, playing himself as Colonel Bob, tells of his near-downfall: "When I was a little boy like some of you, I read a lot about Deadwood Dick . . . So one day I ran away from the Newsboy's home and worked my way out to the plains, where I came near goin' to the dogs. I wanted to be a bad man." Colonel Bob was saved from a "life of crime" by a kindly pioneer woman, but many young men were not. The heroes of the dime novels, he tells the audience, aren't heroes. "Even them who have memories of their own mothers ain't sacred to them men. They're jest common thieves and rascals, and they're only between the pages of cheap novels."

Crawford himself was a character in many of the dime novels. Ned Buntline (E. Z. C. Judson) wrote of him in "Captain Jack, or, The Seven Scouts" (#396 of Log Cabin Library, Street and Smith); and he appeared more or less frequently in Prentiss Ingraham's Buffalo Bill novels and was even the hero of one, "The Adventurous Life of Captain Jack" (Beadle's Boy's Library #63).

Crawford in a preface to his "Poet-Scout: A Book of Song and Story" (New York; Funk & Wagnalls, 1886) claimed, "I have never figured as a hero of fiction or dime novels, and

have refused to allow my name to be used in connection with that kind of literature." In "A Chapter for Boys" in this same edition, however, he admits that his name was used, but not with his permission: "My name has never yet figured in one of these trashy concerns with my consent, although I have been offered quite large sums by publishers to allow my name to be used as the author of a Western story which they would then have written by another, just as they do with other Western characters whom I could name. It is a great trick on the part of publishers to endeavor to secure the names of noted scouts, hunters, and actors as authors of the most ridiculous trash that was ever printed, and I regret to say that some Western men are so foolish as to bite at their glittering bait. But a few weeks since in a New York publication I was pained and mortified to see an old picture of myself, published with others, with a flash story, and labelled, if I remember rightly, 'Broncho Billy.'"

Crawford, however, counted Ned Buntline among his closest friends. His only complaint against appearing in one of Buntline's stories was that Buntline did not get the facts straight. His letter to Buntline, which appears in Leigh Irvine's "Biographical Sketch" in "The Poet-Scout," gives no suggestion that Crawford has any objection to "being made a hero": "I desire to ask a particular favor of you," Captain Jack writes to "My Dear Colonel" Buntline. "In some of your stories you make me say I promised some one six months ago that I would not drink, etc. Now, my dear Colonel, here is where you touch a tender spot. I had a sainted, God-fearing, and sweet mother, to whom I owe everything. No one but the Almighty knows what that mother suffered for me and all her children through my father's intemperance. When she was dying she called me to her bedside and asked me to promise her I would never drink intoxicants . . . Colonel, as God is my judge, I have faithfully kept it,

and will while I live and breathe."

When Crawford started in show business with Buffalo Bill in 1877, he appeared as a character in several of Buffalo Bill's plays—including that of Yellow Hand in "The Red Right Hand of Buffalo Bill." Later, in 1894, in a letter to Cody, he called such plays "'red right hand' dime novel impossibilities," but at the time, Crawford seemingly had no objection to them. In fact, his first play "Fonda" (1877) and his second, "The Mighty Truth" (1886), are both very much like the dime novels—in characterization, language, and action.

After 1894, Crawford seems to have become a "foe" of Buffalo Bill. At least, a letter he wrote him that year accuses Buffalo Bill of cheating him; and he also tells Cody that he knows the true facts of the Yellow Hand fight and calls Cody a "faker." After that time, Captain Jack increased his assault on the dime novel, especially the novel of the west. His play, "Colonel Bob," deals with an Eastern boy who is lured West by the dime novel, and there he discovers that the dime novels deceived him about the "real West."

In 1907, however, Crawford wrote a one-man play, called "The Dregs," a prohibition drama. This play deals with a young student's downfall because of drink. The play is very much like a number of the dime-novel temperance novels. "The First Glass, or The Woes of Wine," by Jno B. Dowd ("Pluck and Luck Complete Stories of Adventure," New York, November 22, 1899) and "Joe Wiley: The Young Temperance," also by Dowd ("Pluck and Luck Complete Stories of Adventure," New York, March 10, 1915).

Crawford, in fact, seems to have thought in terms of the world of the dime novel. The worst thing that he can say about Buffalo Bill is that he has not lived up to the characterization of him that Ned Buntline created. Why he should have made dime novels one of his special biases is, however, a little difficult to understand. Seemingly, he first objected to

the "Public relations" build-up that the dime novel had given Buffalo Bill; and then later, when he became a temperance lecturer, he became convinced that, in spite of the fact that there were temperance dime novels, there was some association between drunkenness and reading dime novels.

The tragedy from Crawford's point of view is that Crawford was a natural dime-novel author. His three plays of the West (now being edited for their first publication) give evidence that he knew the methods of plotting, character, and dialogue that might have given him a place with Buntline and Ingraham had he turned his talents to such authorship. Strangely enough, Crawford wanted fame, but he was certain that a "lasting reputation" would come to him because he fought against the "myth-making" of the dime novelists. The only fame he has now is that he was a minor figure in these very myths he spent a life-time attacking.

DIME NOVELS A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

November 1863

The month of November 1863 was a banner one in the dime novel publishing field. No less than 3 new series were started TEN CENT NOVELLETTE, AMERICAN TALES and IRWIN P. BEADLE'S TEN CENT NOVELS. Seven new dime novel titles appeared, five of which were authored by Edward S. Ellis! Strangely, the civil war was ignored as a subject for the stories appearing during the month. All dime novel and related publications published during the month follows in chronological order.

November 1. Beadles Dime Novels #61 "Laughing Eyes." A Tale of the Natchez Fort, by Mrs. Henry J. Thomas. (Still on a curtailed schedule of one a month.)

November 2. Beadles American Library #33 "The Ranger; or, The Fugitives of the Border," by Edward S. Ellis. Published in London.

November 9. Irwin B. Beadle's Song Book #2 "Yankee Sailor."

November 10. Ten Cent Novelette #1. Published by Elliott, Thomes and Talbot, Boston. "The Golden Eagle; or, The Privateer of '76" by Sylvanus Cobb, Jr.

November 10. "Strange Stories of a Detective; or, Curiosities of Crime," by A Retired Member of the Detective Police. Published by Dick & Fitzgerald.

November 11. Irwin P. Beadle's Ten Cent Novels #1. "The Hunters; or, Life on the Mountain and Prairie," by Capt. Latham C. Carleton (Edward S. Ellis).

November 12. American Tales #1 "On the Plains; or, A Race for Life" by Edward S. Ellis. This publication was issued by Sinclair Tousey as publisher's agent. Prof. Johannsen believes this to have been Beadle & Co.

November 12. "The Fatal Marriage," by Mrs. Southworth. Published by T. B. Peterson.

November 16. Beadles Dime Tales #3. Contained a number of short articles including the following: "A Great Hunting Adventure," "Colonel Harry's Exploits," "Elerson's Famous Ride," "Molly Pitcher at Monmouth" (Edited and probably written by Edward S. Ellis).

November 18. Irwin P. Beadle's Ten Cent Novels #2 "The Trapper's Retreat" A Sequel to "The Hunters," by Latham C. Carleton (Edward S. Ellis). November 19. Beadles Song Book No. 11 "Gay and Happy."

November 21. The New York Ledger began a new serial by Ilion Constalano (Leon Lewis); "The Sun Scorpion." A Story of the Caribbean Sea.

November 21. "Hagar's Lot; or, The Fate of a Poor Girl," by Pierce Egan, Published by Dick & Fitzgerald.

November 21. "Rich and Humble; or, The Mission of Beston Grant," by Oliver Optic. Published by Lee & Shepard.

November 28. Beadle's Dime Speaker #4 "The Comic Speaker."

Also issued during the month was W. H. G. Kingston's "Dick Onslow Among the Indians" published by J. E. Tilton & Co., Boston and Mrs. Hen-

ry Wood's "The Lost Bank Note; or, Martyn Ware's Temptation," published by T. B. Peterson.

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